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NEWS
WORTH
SHARING.**U.S. ADVANCES
TOWARD STRIKE
ON SYRIAN SOIL**CALL FOR ATTACK GETS THE
OK FROM SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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**Employees who
'lynched' black
statue fired**An incident at a Dartmouth, N.S.,
Leon's has led to staff changes

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**JUUUUUST PASSING THROUGH**

Members of Team Cannondale ride during stage one of the Tour of Alberta cycling race in Strathcona County on Wednesday. For coverage, see page 34.

JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Report-card critics common on campaign trail

**Words instead of
grades.** Trustees, challengers aim to
change pilot project — or toss it altogether

Candidates pounding the pavement ahead of the October Calgary school-board election say frustrated parents are using some not-so-friendly words to bash a pilot project that would see numerical grades replaced with terms such as "evident" and "emerging."

Metro spoke with nine in-

cumbent and challenging Calgary Board of Education trustees and all but one said they see room for changes to the proposed model for kindergarten to Grade 9 students.

"I haven't heard anything positive about it.... I am hearing about it constantly at the door, and I think it's ridiculous myself," said Rick Lundy, a father and health-patient advocate currently running unopposed in wards 3 and 4. "I want to know exactly how my kid's doing, and the new report cards lead to a lot more guessing work."

Lundy and Malik Amery, challengers in wards 12 and 14, said that, if elected, they

would go so far as to bring forward a motion that would send administrators back to the drawing board.

"I guess, for the most part, people feel it's been crammed down their throats," Amery said. "It definitely wouldn't be something that should stay the way it is."

Others questioned specific changes outlined in the model, including the removal of teacher comments. Advocates of the plan, including the Alberta Teachers' Association local, have said such a move would actually encourage better interaction between educators and parents.

But every candidate inter-

viewed with the exception of Judy Hehr, challenger in wards 8 and 9, said they would call for more discussion with the public before the model is adopted.

Hehr, a former principal and teacher, said she was happy with plans to pilot the new report cards in selected schools, and commended senior board officials for their approach.

CBE chief superintendent Naomi Johnson cautioned in a meeting Tuesday that the board would only "Look at a few schools" to test out the new model this year.

"Somehow, the information got out ahead of us and

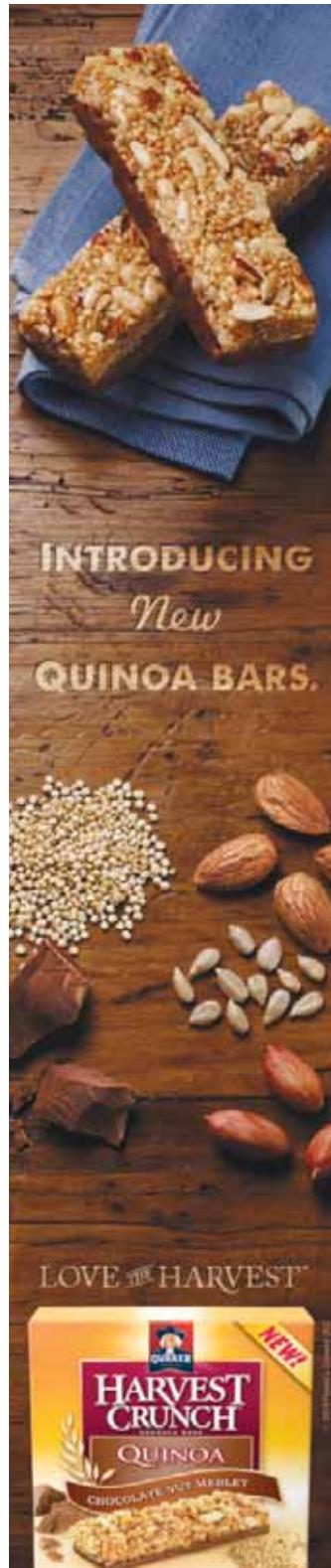
the process was not really that far underway when it was made public," John said, referring to media reports about the pilot project that surfaced in the spring.

"The media told our story — we weren't able to tell it," Johnson added.

But even incumbent trustees Sheila Taylor and Joy Bowen-Eyre, who have said they were in the dark on the new model until the media reports began, say they have concerns.

Both raised questions about the model and potential associated risks during Tuesday's meeting.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO





Quaker Harvest Crunch Quinoa Bars are shown on a rustic wooden surface, surrounded by various nuts and seeds. The bars are cut into squares and stacked on a blue cloth napkin. The background is a warm, earthy tone with scattered almonds, sunflower seeds, and chocolate pieces.

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Funding cut. Epcor Centre at risk: CEO

Provincial funding cuts undermine the mandate of Calgary's Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts and threaten the viability of the downtown facility in its current form, its CEO said on Wednesday.

Johann Zietsman said the expiration of a \$420,000 annual operating grant next April will hit the centre's resident artistic companies the hardest, as they all share in the operating costs.

It will also challenge the centre to continue meeting its mandate of offering "world-class art at affordable rates," Zietsman said.

Culture Minister Heather Klimchuk said this was just one of many "difficult decisions" the province had to make in its most recent budget.

"This portion of funding was not sustainable, in my mind," she said, adding that the grant represents only four per cent of the centre's operating expenses.

But Zietsman said the size of the grant has been slowly diminishing over time, and it once made up 20 per cent of the centre's revenue, something he figures is essential to its operating model.

"We don't have a 2,500-seat Broadway theatre," he said. "That's how other places like ours survive in other cities in America or around the world that do not get government subsidies. They have a cash cow."

Theatre Calgary president Tom McCabe said his and other resident companies already agreed on a 30 per cent rent increase before the funding cuts and "cannot afford to run this place on our own." ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO



Bonnybrook Wastewater Treatment Plant operations leader Robert Kotch stands above one of the facility's clarifiers, which staff must monitor and adjust manually after floodwaters damaged automated systems. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Automation soaked at city wastewater plant

In 'manual mode.'

Operations leader says staff are learning systems more in-depth as they run the plant by hand



ROBSON
FLETCHER

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Calgary's largest wastewater-treatment facility continues to operate in "manual mode" owing to damage from June's flood, presenting a "very high risk" of sending treated water into the Bow River that doesn't meet provincial standards, a city report says.

"We've basically stepped back 30 years in time," said Kevin Colbran, manager of the Bonnybrook Wastewater Treatment Plant. "We have the brain of our control system, but all of the field devices and cabling that sent the information to that brain were toasted in the flood."

As a result, plant employees have to visually monitor things such as water levels and dissolved oxygen levels in the plant's various tanks and then manually turn valves to adjust flow levels and keep the treatment processes in order.

"It's more challenging," Colbran said. "These plants are pretty complex now. They're designed with automation in mind, not manual operation."

It also takes a lot longer, he added, since employees have to physically travel from one part of the 50-acre site to another to make observations, then make adjustments, then double-check that they had the desired effect.

The situation is not ideal but certainly manageable, Colbran said.

Plant operations leader Robert Kotch said some stop-gap measures have been put in place, such as "more primitive" flow meters on some pipes, but the devices are not as accurate and can't be trusted to run automated valves, many of which also need repair.

Colbran expects it will be months before automation is fully restored.

Cash flow

- Repairing damage and replacing equipment at the Bonnybrook plant is expected to cost another \$10.1 million.

- That's on top of \$7.2 million already approved by city staff during and immediately after the flood.

- City council will vote on the additional \$10.1 million next Monday. It was already given tentative approval by the city's priorities and finance committee on Tuesday.

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NEWS



Alyssa Green shows off an increasingly popular form of checking out books from the Calgary Public Library: an iPad. Borrowed ebooks made up 3.5 per cent of total circulation in 2012, up from 1.9 per cent in 2011. METRO FILE

Calgary library CEO looking to do more

Beyond books.

Attendance at library events jumped 28 per cent last year compared to previous year

Calgary's public libraries continue to see rapid growth, with total in-person visits edging up seven per cent last year to exceed 5.724 million, according to a new report.

To put that in perspective, the report states, "more people visited the Calgary Public Library than attended the zoo, all museums, Heritage Park, Fort Calgary, all theatre performances, Spruce Meadows, all music concerts, the Calgary Stampede, and all professional hockey, football, baseball, and soccer games combined."

The growth comes in spite of "less than average" funding from the city, acting CEO Ellen Humphrey told aldermen on the community and protective

services committee Wednesday, adding that there's much more the city's library's could offer.

"For a while one of our rallying cries was 'Let's get us to average,'" she said. "That would give us an enormous benefit."

As examples, Humphrey said library staff would like to expand support services for early literacy and keep more branches open for longer hours.

Many of the services the library currently offers see strong uptake from local communities, said library board chair Janet Hutchinson.

"One of the best examples of this, and it's not the only one, is our Forest Lawn branch," she said. "You could say quite clearly it is embedded in the Calgary community."

Over the next 10 years, the library expects continued usage increases among children, youth, and seniors but "relatively flat" usage among working-age Calgarians.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Go ...

5.724M

Total in-person visits to Calgary libraries in 2012

Read ...

17,121,718

The number of items borrowed

Browse ...

12,019

The number of events hosted by the libraries

Attend ...

337,385

The number of people that attended those events

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As students head back to class, Mount Royal University president David Docherty says he hopes to begin discussion on what the school will look like come 2020. COURTESY MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY

'Foresight is 2020,' says Mount Royal president

Issues remain.

University will still need to find \$3.6M in savings this year



JEREMY NOLAI

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Mount Royal University's president has his eyes fixed firmly on the future.

Eight programs offered at this time last year are now indefinitely suspended, and more than 60 staff positions have been trimmed.

Even the school's thermostats and snow-clearing policies have been adjusted — for the record, it will take 10 centimetres of the sticky white stuff instead of five to bring in the removal crews.

All of that came to combat a \$14-million operating-budget shortfall spurred largely by a cut in provincial

funding that exceeded even worst-case scenarios.

But now, Mount Royal president David Docherty says, the "heavy lifting" is over and he's launched a plan with the working title Foresight is 2020 to envision where the school, home to roughly 14,000 students, will be by decade's end.

"We've said all along it's our goal — objective — to be Canada's premier undergraduate institution," Docherty told Metro.

"I don't think that's going to change. I think the strategic plan is how we see ourselves getting there."

Mount Royal has made it clear its focus is now primarily on four-year degrees, and Docherty assured proposals are coming to add to the institution's course roster.

If things stay on track, the \$90-million Bella Concert Hall on campus is expected to open in the spring of 2015 and officials hope

to break ground on a new Library and Learning Centre this spring, with a tentative opening sometime in early 2016.

The library will mark the conclusion of Phase 1 of Mount Royal's campus master plan and Docherty believes it's time to reassess changes around the site, including a housing development in the former Currie Barracks across the street.

"There are going to be people from there coming for concerts and to our conservatory," he said before adding, "How do we make

the best use of our space, working with their space as well?"

But Docherty conceded fiscal challenges remain.

When asked, the president didn't offer up a budget gap his team will have to absorb in 2013-14, but in an address to the university community posted online and dated Aug. 28, he indicates \$3.6 million more will need to be made up in the form of savings and, potentially, revenue generation.

The president also didn't rule out further cuts to programming and staff.

Developing the plan

- Mount Royal will begin developing its Foresight is 2020 plan Sept. 19 with a budget town-hall discussion led by the school's new provost, Kathy Shailer.
- The school received nine per cent less operational and infrastructure funding from the province in the March provincial budget.

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Premier Allison Redford, front row, third from right, Jeanne Lougheed, at Redford's right, Health Minister Fred Horne, at Redford's left, and Mayor Naheed Nenshi, third row, second from right, pose with staff at the Peter Lougheed Centre. The hospital is celebrating its 25th year of serving Calgarians. GLENN KELLY/FOR METRO

25 years of quality Calgary health care

Anniversary. Premier helps mark milestone at Peter Lougheed Centre

As the Peter Lougheed Centre marked its 25th anniversary Wednesday, the hospital chose to celebrate those staff who have been with the facility since doors first opened in 1988.

Premier Alison Redford and Health Minister Fred Horne were in attendance, praising the dedication and care workers have provided.

"You are a testament to the

change that we've seen in this province, in this institution and in health care," said Redford, addressing the hospital's original staff.

Redford also made a point to thank the Lougheed family, who were in attendance, and to acknowledge the hospital's role in maintaining the legacy of the late premier.

"At the end of the day, I know that as I travel around this city and I talk to people that are involved in the health-care system, they are proud to be associated with the programs and with the facility that are related to the Peter Lougheed Centre, and I'm pretty sure one of the

reasons is because of the person that this institution was named after," she said.

As the anniversary coincides with the Calgary Community Health Fair, Horne stressed the importance of acknowledging the success of the Peter Lougheed Centre through its staff, and its importance as a marker of quality health care in the province.

"This is a home to thousands of dedicated health care providers over the past 25 years; people who I have said have made this hospital a community of caring in every respect," Horne said.

GLENN KELLY/FOR METRO

Election. Candidates stake claim in debate on early sign placement

With elections come signs. Lots of them.

One Ward 1 candidate, Chris Harper, has stated his intention to withhold the placing of campaign signs until after the Sept. 23 nomination day.

Harper said he believes the bombardment of campaign paraphernalia beside public roadways frustrates voters, and he wants to respect the neighbourhoods he serves.

"It respects a community's desire to minimize the visual pollution," Harper said.

James Maxim, who is running against incumbent Ald. Brian Pincott in Ward 11 and has already erected four-by-eight signs along some roadways, said people at the doors



Signs, like this one from Ward 11 candidate James Maxim, are popping up around the city.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

said.

Larry Leach, school-trustee candidate in wards 5 and 10, will hold back on placing signs until nomination day, but this is more a budget issue than one of public perception.

"If voters care, I'd like to hear from voters, but I don't think they care," Leach said.

"They care about your issues and your policies."

The City of Calgary does have bylaws regarding the physical placement of campaign signs on public property, but no rules on early placement. Candidates are, however, required to remove all campaign signs from public property within 36 hours of election day. DARREN KRAUSE/METRO

are glad he's getting the message out early.

"I don't think there's really any advantage. What we're doing is making it known I am running in Ward 11," Maxim



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Canine cops get calendar

Furry heroes. Calgary Police canine unit pays tribute to police dogs

GLENN KELLY
calgary@metronews.ca

Acknowledging their partners, the Calgary Police Service Canine Unit has released a first-

ever charity calendar for 2014, paying tribute to the often-unseen furry heroes in support of the Calgary Police Foundation.

All 19 dogs in the CPSCU are to be featured in the calendar, a limited edition with 2,500 prints, priced at \$10.

"Generally the public only sees our dogs in the 6 o'clock news or the occasional PR event or even going to a call at the late hours," says Unit Constable

Quoted

"This just helps to show the dogs in another light."

Unit Constable Shawn MacGillvary

Shawn MacGillvary.

"This just helps to show the dogs in another light."

MacGillvary, who has served for 13 years with the Canine Unit and whose partner, Nox,

is featured for the month of December, says it's important to give credit to his partner and other dogs in the unit, as they often help perform dangerous tasks and manoeuvres that wouldn't be possible without their special skills.

According to CPS statistics, police service dogs have responded to 4,200 calls this year, with 174 arrests being attributed to their deployment.



Calgary police dogs are getting some well-deserved spotlight and raising money for charity with a new calendar. COURTESY CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

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Alberta Government

StatsCan: Lure of jobs in Alberta not enough to get workers to stay

An abundance of jobs in Alberta's energy sector is not enough to persuade out-of-province workers to make a permanent move, a Statistics Canada study suggests.

The study found there were plenty of people moving to Alberta between 2004 and 2009. But only one in four who were coming for jobs decided to make Alberta their primary residence. They listed their home province on their tax returns.

"While some of the interprovincial workers observed in this study subsequently made a residential move to Alberta, at least as identified on their T1 tax return, most did not," wrote the authors, Christine Laporte, Yugian Lu and Grant Schellenberg.

"It is likely that factors such as family ties, social networks, organizational arrangements (e.g. daycare, school enrolment), home ownership and quality of life were important factors," they wrote.

"Nonetheless, the prospects of readily available jobs elsewhere had appeal.

By the numbers

About three-quarters of the job seekers were men under the age of 35 from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Atlantic Canada.

- Roughly half of those were employed in construction and oil and gas extraction.
- More than one-third of female interprovincial employees were working in accommodation and food services or the retail trade.

When weighed against the costs of moving interprovincially, the benefits of working interprovincially was the option chosen by these individuals," the report says.

"Quite clearly, people react to employment opportunities in various ways, and, more broadly, labour markets adjust in various ways."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Financial support

Flood aid flowing, province says

Millions of dollars have been doled out to Albertans impacted by the June flooding, the province said Wednesday.

Flooding devastated many areas of southern Alberta, including wide swaths of Calgary and the majority of the town of High River. More than 100,000 people were affected by the flooding.

According to updated information provided in a release Wednesday, the province has distributed

nearly \$70 million in immediate support to almost 40,000 Albertans affected by the flood.

Of 8,200 current applications for disaster recovery, the province says 1,827 payments totalling more than \$8.6 million have already been made.

METRO

Housing

950

950 Albertans are in temporary long-term housing as a result of flood damage; 400 more are in more temporary housing, such as hotels.



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Medicine Hat Mall, Medicine Hat



ASAP. Police look to catalogue evidence with barcodes and radio tags

Calgary police are looking to move their evidence management into the 21st century with a new system that would employ barcode or radio-frequency ID tags for tens of thousands of exhibits.

"It's going to help us with absolutely everything," said Kellie Cooper, manager of the Calgary Police Service's evidence and property unit. "Currently it's very paper-based and it's a very manual system."

As a result, the CPS has put out a request for proposals for "a new property tracking and management solution that includes the implementation of bar code or radio-frequency identification (RFID) scanners or both," with a closing date of Sept. 12.

"It literally will be the week after that we will be assessing proposals," Cooper said. "We want to get this in progress as quickly as possible."

The goal is to catalogue

That's a lot of evidence

- Calgary police currently have more than 120,000 exhibits in evidence storage.
- Evidence in homicide or major crime cases is kept for 40 years.

not just new evidence as it comes in but old evidence currently in the main warehouse and branch storage units, she added, so as to make information more easily accessible to investigators and potentially aid in solving cold cases.

In addition, the system is expected to make for stronger prosecutions because it will more easily and consistently maintain the continuity of exhibits.

"We can tell who touched an exhibit, and that's great for when it goes to court," she said. **ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO**

Assault. Woman attacked by masked man: Police

For the second time in less than two weeks, Edmonton police are investigating after a woman was allegedly attacked while walking alone.

On Tuesday around 11 p.m., a 25-year-old woman was allegedly sexually assaulted by a masked man while walking in a "calm, quiet," residential area, police said.

"She was knocked to the ground. She was choked. And she ended up screaming and yelling and the suspect fled. While she was on the ground she was fondled," said EPS Det.

Brenda Dalziel.

The woman was walking alone when she saw the male suspect walking towards her. When she decided to cross the street, he followed.

"As she got to the curb on the other side, he ran at her and attacked her," Dalziel said.

Dalziel said it's unknown if the incident is connected to an attack on a 25-year-old woman on August 25. In that incident, a woman was struck in the face from behind as she neared her apartment around 3:30 a.m.

ANNALESE KLINGBEIL/METRO



Det. Brenda Dalziel speaks to media on Wednesday afternoon.

ANNALESE KLINGBEIL/METRO

Asthma claims. Doctors demand Alberta coal plants be phased out

Several health groups are demanding that the Alberta government speed up the closure of coal-fired generating plants.

The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, the Asthma Society of Canada and the Lung Association are running ads in provincial newspapers pointing to the health costs of such plants.

The groups released research in the spring suggesting that coal causes almost 5,000 days of missed school or work a year because of asthma symp-

toms.

TransAlta Utilities disputed that research, saying independent research found the health of people living near coal-fired plants was as good as anywhere in the province.

Still, doctors' spokesman Gideon Forman says he believes Alberta is looking for a way to burnish its environmental reputation and may be receptive. He says meetings with politicians and regulators will be held in the near future.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Northeast Calgary

Neighbour lets two dogs out of burning home

Two dogs were rescued by a neighbour after a fire broke out in the northeast Calgary home Wednesday afternoon.

Firefighters were called around 3 p.m. to a home on

Bedridge Rd. N.E.; shortly after, a second alarm was called out.

The fire was confined to one home and there were no reported injuries. Fire officials said there was no one home at the time of the fire. Two dogs were helped from the home by a neighbour. The home suffered significant damage, and the cause is under investigation, fire officials said. **METRO**



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Canadians pulling out ... leaving Afghans to fight a 'violent war'

Ominous question.
As our training mission ends, can Afghans fend off the continuing onslaughts by insurgents?

Canadian troops will soon be saying: Farewell Afghanistan.

The troops will begin a phased withdrawal from the country next month.

The pullout will leave fewer than 100 soldiers on the ground by the time the training mission officially ends in March.

But questions remain about whether the Afghan force Canadians have been training will be capable of fending off the continued onslaught of insurgents.

Maj.-Gen. Dean Milner,

who's in charge of Canadian troops and is deputy commander of the NATO training mission, expressed confidence the Afghan National Army and police will be able to meet the challenges.

"The Afghans, as you know, are 100 per cent in the lead. So there's no doubt in my mind they're taking more casualties," he said in a conference call from Kabul.

Despite that, he said, there is "nothing that is precluding them from defeating the Taliban."

But U.S. Gen. Joseph Dunford, Milner's boss and the NATO commander in Afghani-

stan, has told the British media he believes Afghan forces are suffering an "unsustainable" level of casualties and the fledgling army might need Western help for another five years.

A recent study by a respected Washington-based think-tank paints an ominous portrait of the increasingly violent war NATO is leaving the Afghans to fight.

The Centre for Strategic and International Studies, citing U.S. defence data, noted there has been no drop in insurgent-instigated attacks this year.

Unlike the U.S. experience in Iraq, the surge of troops into Afghanistan did not produce a gradual reduction in violence, said the report.

"I think you simply have to say this is still a very violent war," said Anthony Cordesman, the report's author.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Their confidence is growing."

Maj.-Gen. Dean Milner, explaining how training is buoying the Afghan troops.



Maj.-Gen. Dean Milner says there is "nothing precluding" the Afghans from winning. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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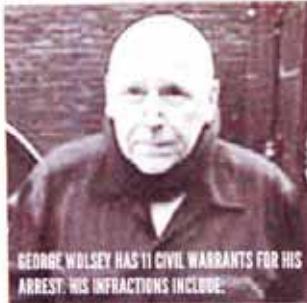
Landlord on the run?

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GEORGE WOLSEY

"Mr. Wolsey reminded me that if I didn't 'Play by the DTES rules people disappear.' " "Rats would jump into our bed while we were sleeping and get tangled in our sheets."



GEORGE WOLSEY HAS 11 CIVIL WARRANTS FOR HIS ARREST. HIS INFRACTIONS INCLUDE:

- exploiting marginalized community members
- putting tenants health at risk
- harassment
- forced evictions
- rampant infestations

Landlord George Wolsey is pictured in a Vancouver "wanted" poster. METRO

'Heartless S.O.B.'

B.C. court orders George Wolsey's arrest over \$18,163 debt



EMILY JACKSON
Metro in Vancouver

Notorious Downtown East-side landlord George Wolsey is officially a wanted man after refusing to pay thousands in damages to former tenants of his dilapidated buildings.

The B.C. provincial court ordered 10 warrants for Wolsey's arrest on Tuesday after he repeatedly failed to show up in court to address his \$18,163.75 debt to 10 former residents of the Wonder and Palace hotels, the Pivot Legal Society announced at a news conference Wednesday.

It's a paltry sum for a man who sold the two cockroach-and-bedbug-infested single-room-occupancy hotels in Vancouver's poorest

neighbourhood for about \$4 million in 2012.

Court action happened after the city issued an injunction forcing him to repair the buildings, which didn't have functional fire escapes.

"He's a heartless S.O.B.," former resident Stephen Freeman told reporters, adding Wolsey evicted him from his mouse-ridden room for buying methadone from a different pharmacist.

Wolsey, a Langley resident who had his pharmacist licence stripped in 2004 for forcing his tenants to fill their prescriptions through him, has seven days to turn himself in or Surrey sheriff services will begin searching for him.

This is the first time a Vancouver landlord has faced arrest warrants, Pivot lawyer Douglas King said.

Quoted

"He's a tyrant, period."

Stephen Freeman, who says he was evicted by landlord George Wolsey.

Tory tome. Hockey's in his blood, so PM pens a hockey history book

Stephen Harper can soon add another line to his résumé — published author.

The prime minister's book on the history of hockey is set to hit store shelves Nov. 5.

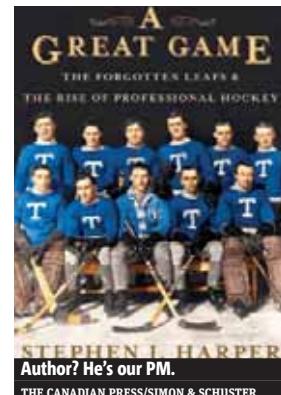
A Great Game: The Forgotten Leafs and the Rise of Professional Hockey looks at the early years of the game.

It will also feature photos of famous arenas and the game's earliest star players.

"Drawing on extensive archival records and illustrations, histories of the sport, and newspaper files, A Great Game delves into the fascinating early years of ice hockey," publisher Simon & Schuster Canada said Wednesday.

"It tells of the hockey heroes and hard-boiled businessmen who built the game, and the rise and fall of legendary teams pursuing the Stanley Cup."

Harper has spent years on the book, reportedly setting aside a few minutes each day to work on it.



The prime minister is known to be a giant hockey fan and regularly attends NHL games — although the Toronto-born Harper remains coy about his favourite team.

All Harper's proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Canadian Forces Personnel and Family Support Services.

THE CANADIAN PRESS


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U.S. Senate panel votes for use of force in Syria

10-7 in favour.

President's push for military strike after alleged chemical-weapons attack gains steam in Congress

President Barack Obama's request for speedy congressional backing of a military strike in Syria advanced in the Senate on Wednesday, hours after the president left open the possibility he would order retaliation for a deadly chemical weapons attack even if Congress withheld its approval.

A resolution backing the use of force against President Bashar Assad's government cleared the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on a 10-7 vote after it was stiffened at the last minute to include

a pledge of support for "decisive changes to the present military balance of power" in Syria's civil war. It would rule out U.S. combat operations on the ground.

The measure is expected to reach the Senate floor next week, although the timetable for a vote is uncertain.

The support seen in the Senate will be harder to find in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, which is also reviewing Obama's request, though its

timetable is even less certain.

The Obama administration blames a chemical weapons attack that took place on Aug. 21 on Assad's government and says more than 1,400 civilians died, including at least 400 children. Other casualty estimates are lower, and the Syrian government denies responsibility, contending rebels fighting to topple Assad were to blame. The Senate panel's vote marked the first formal response in Congress, four days

after Obama unexpectedly put off an anticipated cruise missile strike against Syria and instead asked lawmakers to unite behind such a plan. Obama was in Sweden after a day of diplomacy when the vote occurred. White House press secretary Jay Carney praised the Senate committee for backing Obama's call for a strike, saying the measure would uphold U.S. national security interests.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Against unilateralism

Putin might support UN call for strike

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned the West

against taking one-sided action in Syria but said Russia "doesn't exclude" supporting a UN resolution on punitive military strikes if it is proved that Syria used poison gas on its own people.

In an interview Tuesday

with The Associated Press, Putin expressed hope that he and Obama would have serious discussions about Syria and other issues at the G-20 summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, this week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Syrian refugees gather at the Turkish Cilvegozu gate border on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Working on the details

Democrats, Republicans voice concerns

The Senate committee's vote capped a hectic few days in which lawmakers first narrowed the scope of Obama's request — limiting it to 90 days and banning combat operations on the ground — and then widened it.

Republican Sen. John McCain, a proponent of aggressive U.S. military action in Syria, joined forces with Democratic Sen. Chris Coons to add a provision calling for "decisive changes to the present military balance of power on the ground in Syria."

At their urging, the measure was also changed to state that the policy of the United States is "to change the momentum on the battlefield in Syria so as to create favourable conditions for a negotiated settlement that ends the conflict and leads to a democratic government in Syria."

McCain, who has long accused Obama of timidity

in Syria, argued that Assad will be willing to participate in diplomatic negotiations only if he believes he is going to lose the civil war he has been fighting for over two years.

But even supporters of military action urged Obama to do more to sell his plans to an American public that is highly skeptical after a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Republican Rep. Ed Royce said that while it would be important to deter the use of chemical weapons by Assad and others, there remained many unanswered questions, including what the U.S. would do if Assad retaliated.

"The administration's Syria policy doesn't build confidence," he said.

In a letter to her rank and file, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said she had received suggestions for legislation in the House "to add language to prevent boots on the ground, to tie the authorization more closely to the use of chemical weapons and to address concerns about an open-ended timetable."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Privacy. Obama tries to assure Europe the NSA is 'not snooping' at random

President Barack Obama on Wednesday defended anew the United States' controversial surveillance programs, trying to reassure Europeans that the National Security Agency's spying apparatus acts in limited fashion to root out threats — even though recently revealed programs show a more widespread information-gathering effort.

"I can give assurances to the publics in Europe and around the world that we're not going around snooping at people's emails or listening to their phone calls," Obama said in response to a Swedish reporter's question during a news conference with Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt as he began a whirlwind, 24-hour trip to Sweden. "What we try to do is to target very specifically areas of concern."

Still, the president acknowledged that questions about privacy were likely to trail him in Europe — a continent that is protective of privacy rights — for some time.



President Barack Obama at a press conference at Rosenbad, the seat of Swedish government, in Stockholm on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The issue also bubbled up during his trip to Germany in June, shortly after newspapers published reports based on documents leaked by former government contractor Edward Snowden. Despite Obama's assertions of a more narrow-scope effort, the Snowden-leaked documents show the NSA collects and stores all kinds of data from the Internet, including emails, video chats and instant messages. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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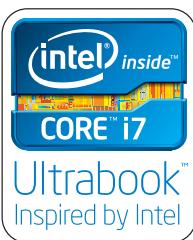
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Guo Bin recuperates with his mother at a hospital in Taiyuan in northwest China's Shanxi province after a brutal attack that left him blind. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Cops suspect boy's aunt gouged eyes

China. Horrific case appears to end with attacker's suicide, but still no clear motive

Chinese authorities said Wednesday that they suspect that the woman who gouged out a six-year-old boy's eyes was his aunt who later killed herself, adding a surprising twist to a gruesome case with conflicting details.

The attack on the boy horrified the Chinese public and added to outrage over violence against children in the wake

In the dark

"He still doesn't know that he likely will be blind the rest of his life."

Wang Wenli on the condition of her 6-year-old son after a brutal attack

of a scandal earlier in the year involving teachers sexually abusing young girls. This time, heart-wrenching images and footage of the wailing child in hospital, his eyes bandaged and parents distraught, have circulated on the Internet as news commentaries slammed the brutality of the attack.

"Mama, why is the sky still so dark?" the child has been quoted as saying while recovering in hospital, his parents unable to bring themselves to tell him about his condition.

On Wednesday, police in the city of Linfen in northern Shanxi province confirmed an official Xinhua News Agency report that the boy's aunt, Zhang Huiying, had been identified as a suspect because his blood was found on her clothes. Six days after the boy was attacked, Zhang killed herself by jumping into a well.

Xinhua did not cite a possible motive for the aunt to attack the boy. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Toronto doctor a 'sexual opportunist': Crown

Allegations from 21 women that an anesthesiologist molested them during surgeries are strikingly similar and cannot be chalked up to hallucinations, the Crown said Wednesday, calling Dr. George Doodnaught a "sexual opportunist."

In his closing arguments at Doodnaught's trial, Crown attorney David Wright said that the sedatives used during the surgeries were administered in doses too low to cause sexual dreams.

Each of the women reported that Doodnaught

kissed them, touched them inappropriately or put his genitals in their mouth while they were under conscious sedation, all but one during surgeries at Toronto's North York General Hospital between 2006 and 2010. He has pleaded not guilty to 21 counts of sexual assault.

The women told detailed, vivid accounts of similar assaults by the now 64-year-old doctor, Wright said.

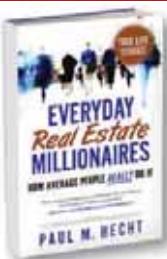
"If patients were hallucinating one would expect an element of randomness," he said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

The arguments

- It is "simply impossible" that Doodnaught would have been able to assault 21 women undetected by anyone else in the rooms, the defence argued.

- If the drugs are to blame, "why is it that only George Doodnaught has complaints and not the 25 other anesthesiologists ... who use the same drugs?" the Crown said.

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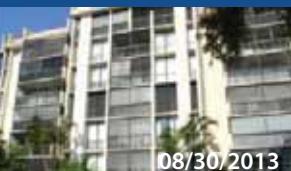
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It don't matter if you're black or white. N-word is offensive regardless of who says it: Court

The lawyer for a black U.S. woman whose claim against a black boss's N-word rant brought a \$280,000 jury award says she hopes the case teaches society something.

"It's the most offensive word in the English language," attorney Marjorie M. Sharpe said Tuesday.

A jury sided with 38-year-old Brandi Johnson against the boss, Rob Carmona, in a case that explored a word that is a degrading slur when spoken by whites but at times is used affectionately among

blacks, even in the workplace. Johnson said she hopes the word now "won't be tolerated no matter what your race is."

Carmona, a 61-year-old black man of Puerto Rican descent, had testified that he was dispensing tough love. "I come from a different time," he said in court Tuesday.

He had tried to defend his use of the word, saying it had "multiple contexts" in the black and Latino communities, sometimes indicating anger, sometimes love.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The two Koreas

Can't we forget about those nuclear threats and co-host?

South Korea has rejected Pyongyang's suggestion that a North Korean ski resort could be used for events at the 2018 Winter Olympics.

The organizing com-

mittee for the games in Pyeongchang says that North Korea's offer is unrealistic.

The committee's statement on Wednesday comes after a North Korean IOC official told the Voice of America broadcaster on Tuesday that it is possible to use the North Korean ski resort for Olympic events when it's completed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just watch this become the must-have gift of the season



A model touches the screen of a Samsung Galaxy Gear smartwatch in Berlin, Wednesday. MICHAEL SOHN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wearable computing.

Samsung unveils smartwatch in race to beat Apple for this year's most-coveted gadget

Samsung unveiled its highly anticipated digital wristwatch Wednesday, beating Apple to what could become this year's must-have holiday gift item.

So-called smartwatches, which can perform tasks such as displaying email and Twitter messages on a device worn around the wrist, have been around for several years but have failed so far to inspire

Is it really such a big deal?

"Smartwatches haven't had the best track record."

Ramon Llamas, an analyst at research firm IDC, who is skeptical that so-called wearable computers will be a success

great interest among ordinary consumers. But with smartphone behemoths Samsung Electronics Co. and Apple Inc. joining the fray — and Google pushing its Google Glass gadget — experts see a chance of wearable computers breaking into the mainstream.

That is, if consumers can get used to talking to their watch, secret-agent style.

"With Gear you're able to make calls and receive calls, without ever taking your phone out of your pocket," Pranav Mistry, a member of Samsung's design team, told reporters at the launch in Berlin ahead of the annual IFA consumer electronics show there.

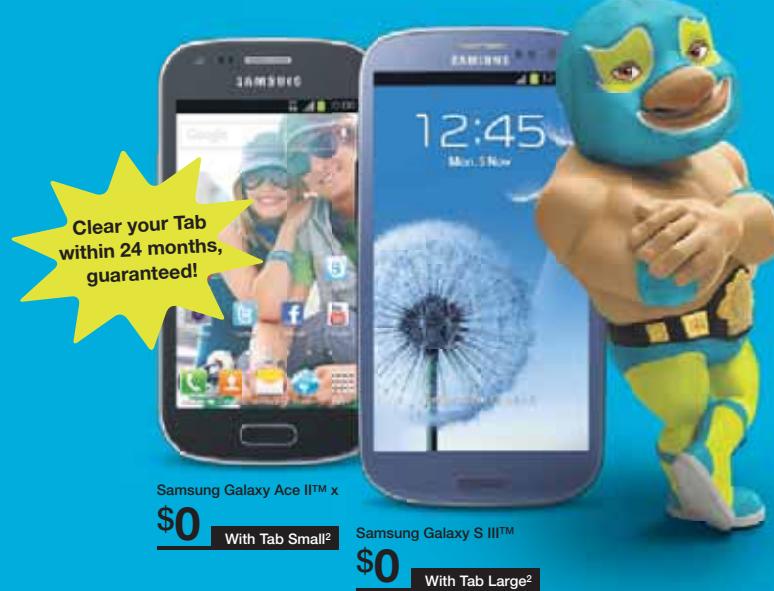
The Gear uses Google's Android operating system, just like many other devices made by Samsung. The South Korean electronics company said the Gear can act as an extension to a smartphone by discreetly alerting users to incoming messages and calls on its display screen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comparing it to slavery

Winnipeg man hopes city forced to cut and run from grass-mowing bylaw

A Winnipeg man who says a city grass-cutting bylaw is a form of slavery is facing an uphill battle in court.

Richard Hykawy says he is trying to strike a blow for any Canadians who are required to cut grass or clear snow on city property adjacent to their homes.

Hykawy has been fined for refusing to trim the grass on a strip of city property next to his house.

He is asking a Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench judge to declare the bylaw a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, because it amounts to forced labour and slavery.

Hykawy is representing himself in court and was told by a judge this morning he had not filed his affidavit correctly.

Hykawy has also so far failed to notify the provincial and federal governments that he is raising a charter challenge, so the case has been postponed for at least a few weeks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web



For more local news go to metronews.ca



Lance Armstrong arrives with his then-wife Kristin to a party in New York to celebrate Armstrong being named Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year in this file photo from Dec. 10, 2002. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Judge orders Lance Armstrong to testify about doping

Lawsuit. Texas judge orders the cyclist to answer doping questions in fraud case

An Austin, Texas, judge is pushing Lance Armstrong closer to his first sworn testimony on details of his performance-enhancing drug use, ordering the cyclist to answer questions about who knew what and when about his doping, includ-

ing possibly his ex-wife and his attorneys.

Nebraska-based Acceptance Insurance Holding is seeking the information in its lawsuit to recover \$3 million in bonuses it paid Armstrong from 1999 to 2001. A judge previously refused to dismiss the case.

Acceptance is trying to prove a years-long conspiracy and coverup by Armstrong to commit fraud. It wants to know when several of Armstrong's personal and business associates — including ex-wife

Kristin Armstrong, team officials, the cyclist's lawyers and International Cycling Union president Pat McQuaid — first learned of his doping.

Armstrong's attorneys objected to those demands in court documents, arguing the former cyclist already has acknowledged cheating and that Acceptance is engaged in a "harassing, malicious ... fishing expedition" intended to "make a spectacle of Armstrong's doping."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sergio Garcia poses for photographs in San Francisco on Tuesday. Garcia, who wants to be a lawyer, arrived in Northern California illegally 20 years ago and has been there since. JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California. Man illegally in the U.S. fights to become a lawyer

Sergio Garcia arrived in the U.S. illegally 20 years ago to pick almonds in the field with his father. Now, still living in the country illegally, he's fighting to become a lawyer in California and has the support of the state's attorney general and lawyers' association.

The U.S. Department of Justice, however, is trying to block his request.

The dispute is the latest high-profile immigration clash between state and federal laws as Congress and the Obama administration work on overhauling the system to address the estimated 11 million people living in the country il-

legally.

The Mexican-born Garcia, 36, studied to become a paralegal and passed the California bar exam on the first try — a boast that Gov. Jerry Brown and nearly 50 per cent of all first-time test takers can't make.

On Wednesday, Garcia will ask the California Supreme Court to license him. But the DOJ argues in court filings that granting Garcia a law licence card would violate a federal law barring people in the U.S. illegally from receiving government benefits.

"It was a real slap in the face," Garcia said.

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INFO NIGHT, SEPT. 11, 5-8 PM

Judge still being judged over 30-day sentence for rapist

Montana. Original sentence may be illegal

A former teacher sent to prison for 30 days for raping a student is set to return to court in Billings, Mont. Friday because the sentence may have been illegal, but the move has failed to quiet criticisms of the judge overseeing the case.

District Judge G. Todd Baugh said Tuesday that state law appears to require a two-year mandatory minimum prison term for Stacey Rambold, 54.

"In the Court's opinion, imposing a sentence which suspends more than the mandatory minimum would be an illegal sentence," Baugh wrote.

But that did little to sway Baugh's critics, including hundreds of protesters who rallied outside the Yellowstone County Courthouse last week to call for the judge's resignation.

Yellowstone County Attorney Scott Twito said Baugh may lack authority to impose

a longer sentence at this point. That's because state law says an illegal sentence must be handled through the appeal process.

Rambold was sentenced last week to 15 years with all but 31 days suspended and a one-day credit given for time-served. He has begun serving his month-long term at the state prison.

Prosecutors have described Rambold's actions with Moralez as "the ultimate violation" of the trust she had placed in him as a teacher. Court documents show that Rambold and Moralez had three sexual encounters. The relationship was still going on when authorities were notified in 2008 after Moralez confided in her youth counsellor, the court documents state.

"Law enforcement intervention ended the relationship, not the defendant," prosecutors said in an Aug. 23 sentencing memorandum.

Baugh said in response to the criticism that Rambold's sentence was based on the de-

Condemnation

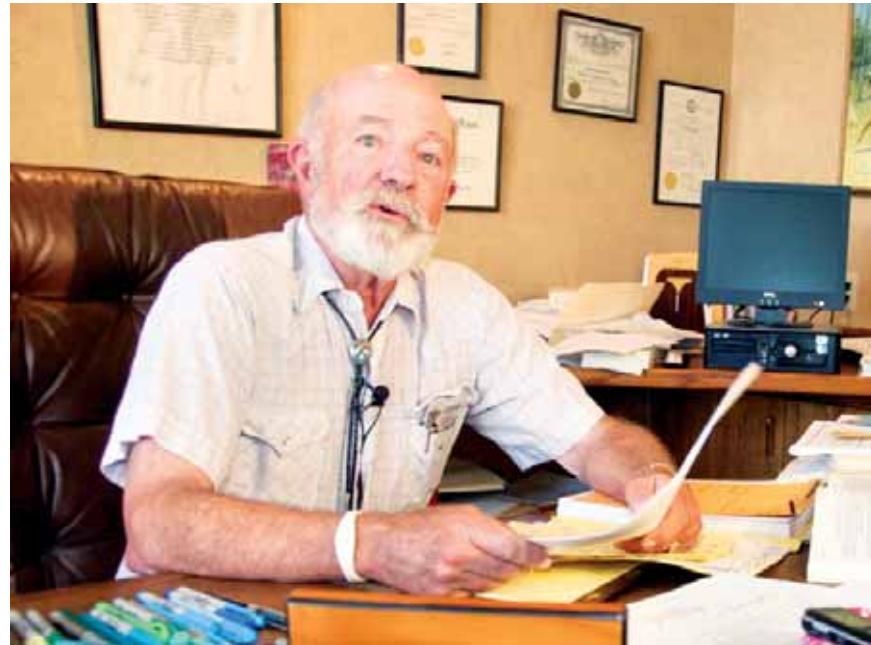
The judge has faced widespread condemnation for the sentence and for saying Rambold's 14-year-old victim was "older than her chronological age" and asserting that she had some control over her relationship with Rambold.

- The judge later apologized for his comments. Those who have called for him to resign said it's not enough.
- The girl killed herself before Rambold's case came to trial. That left prosecutors without their main witness.

fendant's violation of an earlier deal he made with prosecutors, rather than the original crime.

He also claimed that his remarks about the girl were "irrelevant" and did not factor into his sentence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Montana District Judge G. Todd Baugh reads a statement last month apologizing for remarks he made about a 14-year-old girl raped by a teacher in Billings, Mont. State prosecutors said Wednesday they are appealing as "illegal" the 30-day sentence handed down by the Montana judge to the former teacher for raping the girl. MATTHEW BROWN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stronger

Man who lost legs in Boston bombing, helped ID attacker, gets book deal

A man who lost his legs in the Boston Marathon bombings but managed to help identify the attackers is working on a memoir.

Jeff Bauman has a book deal with Grand Central Publishing for Stronger,

scheduled to come out in April, one year after the attacks that killed three and injured many others.

Grand Central said Wednesday that the book would focus on Bauman's experiences during and after the bombings. He had been at the finish line, waiting for his girlfriend to finish the race, when the bombs exploded.

Bauman is a motivational speaker and said that he wanted his book to "inspire others." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Distance swimmer

48-hour fundraiser up next for Nyad

Diana Nyad may have finally completed her long-held dream of swimming from Cuba to Florida, but even at an age where many people are thinking about retirement, she isn't planning to slow down.

The 64-year-old Nyad plans to swim for 48 hours straight next month, ac-

companied by celebrities swimming laps alongside her, in a specially designed swimming pool that will be erected in New York City to raise money for Hurricane Sandy survivors.

The swimmer acknowledges that her success is having an impact.

"(My godson) texted me yesterday and said, 'I'm never in my life again going to call someone in their 60s old. It's over.'"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arizona

Man rescued by air force after 100-foot fall in national park

An Arizona man is recovering from a climbing accident so remote at Zion National Park that it took the Air Force to make a rescue in the dead of night.

Park officials say the 33-year-old climber was plucked from Behunin Can-

yon Tuesday by a helicopter and rescue squadron from Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas.

Officials say the man's helmet probably saved his life, but a 100-foot fall left him with serious head and other injuries. He was set to make a rappel when he slipped untethered to a rope.

Park spokeswoman Aly Baltrus says the climber had surgery Tuesday at University Medical Trauma Center in Las Vegas. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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A member of the fire crew stands watch near a controlled burn as they fight the Rim Fire near Yosemite National Park in California. **Monday.** COURTESY: U.S. FOREST SERVICE. MIKE MCMILLAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yosemite. Fire chief suspects pot grow-op started blaze

Crews have pushed forward with building containment lines around the wildfire in and around Yosemite National Park as authorities lift evacuation orders and advisories for several Sierra Nevada communities once threatened by the massive blaze.

Officials said they still are investigating the cause of the fire, which started 18 days ago in an isolated area of the Stanislaus National Forest and has burned nearly 950 square kilometres — the fourth biggest recorded wildfire in California.

Officials said 111 structures, including 11 homes, have been destroyed. More than 4,300 firefighters are still battling the blaze.

Although no cause has been announced, one local fire chief speculated the fire might have ignited in an illegal marijuana grow.

Chief Todd McNeal of the Twain Harte Fire Department told a community group recently that there was no lightning in the area, so the fire must have been caused by humans.

"We don't know the exact cause," he said in a talk that was posted Aug. 23 on YouTube. "Highly suspect it might have been some sort of illicit grove, a marijuana-grow-type thing."

Illegal marijuana grows in national parks and forests have tormented federal land managers for years. Growers hike into remote canyons with poisons and irrigation lines and set up camp for months.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moving porn out of state not what group had in mind

Condom law. AIDS Healthcare Foundation claims producers are trying to get around Measure B by having actors perform outside California borders

A California-based health organization that successfully pushed for a Los Angeles County law mandating condom use in the adult film industry has filed a complaint about a porn movie made in Florida after it says filmmakers started shifting production to other states to avoid the law.

The organization, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, for-



Voters approved the Los Angeles County condom law last November and it survived a legal challenge by porn producers when a judge last month upheld its constitutionality. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

mally requested an investigation in an Aug. 16 letter to Florida's Department of Health.

The complaint claims that a Florida production took health risks by making por-

nography without condoms.

AHF president Michael Weinstein said Wednesday that California-based porn producers are trying to get around the new L.A. county law, known as Measure B, by having actors perform outside the state.

The filming was done by North Miami Beach-based D&E Productions on a contract with San Diego Boy Productions, according to D&E co-owner David Adamson.

He said California porn makers are outsourcing work in which actors don't wear condoms to filmmakers in other states, like him. Florida, especially the areas around Miami and Fort Lauderdale, has long had a robust pornography industry.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Human Rights Foundation is criticizing singer Kanye West for performing at a wedding in Kazakhstan. FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Kanye West. Rapper under fire for performance at wedding in Kazakhstan

The Human Rights Foundation has criticized Kanye West for performing at a wedding in Kazakhstan, joining a chorus of detractors who say he legitimized the human-rights violations of the nation's president.

The rapper performed at the wedding of Nursultan Nazarbayev's grandson last Saturday. The human-rights group compared the ap-

pearance to a similar visit earlier this summer by Jennifer Lopez to Turkmenistan, which has its own history of human-rights violations.

HRF president Thor Halvorssen says in a statement that Kazakhstan is a "human-rights wasteland" where entertainers like West would be imprisoned for expressing their views.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Walking Dead

Zombies invade online classroom

The University of California, Irvine said Wednesday it will offer a free online course based on AMC network's hit zombie series The Walking Dead. The eight-week course begins on Oct. 14, the day after the AMC drama has its season premiere.

Topics include the hierarchy of needs in a crisis, the physiology of stress and population modeling to predict a species' survival. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elton John foundation

Clinton picked for gay-rights honour

Hillary Rodham Clinton's support of gay rights has earned her a special honour from the Elton John AIDS Foundation. The former U.S. secretary of state will receive its first Founder's Award on Oct. 15 in New York City. Others honorees include celebrity chef Sandra Lee and business mogul Ronald Perelman.

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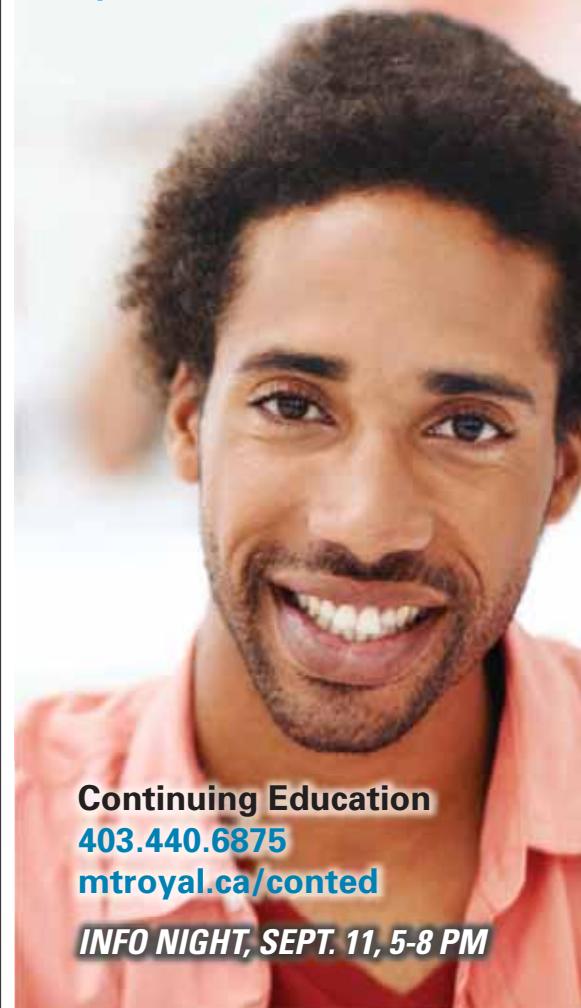
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INFO NIGHT, SEPT. 11, 5-8 PM

Vigilantism? Bus drivers flee from female 'hunter'

Half of the bus drivers who work a route in Mexico on which two colleagues were shot to death last week, possibly by a woman seeking revenge for purported sexual abuse of female passengers, didn't show up for work Tuesday.

Only 10 of the 20 drivers on the 4A bus route in the border city of Ciudad Juárez took the wheel "because they are afraid," a dispatcher said. "There were a lot fewer passengers, too."

Authorities have released a police sketch of a female suspect and said they were looking into claims made over the weekend in an email from the

Ex-Calgarian

Man gets retrial for wife's killing

A former Calgary man convicted of strangling his estranged wife in 2008 has won a new trial in North Carolina.

Media reports say an appeals court made the decision on Tuesday after hearing

Claim of responsibility

"I am the instrument of vengeance for several women."

An email from 'Diana, the hunter of bus drivers,' sent to various media outlets

"bus-driver hunter," who said she is seeking revenge on behalf of women she alleged had been abused by bus drivers.

The claims echoed deeply in Ciudad Juárez, which has a grim history of rape and murder against women on buses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

arguments on whether Bradley Cooper's defence lawyers were thwarted from presenting their best case.

Cooper was convicted in 2011 of killing of his wife Nancy. Prosecutors said Cooper had killed his wife because she planned to divorce him and move to Canada with their two daughters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Russia's not homophobic – we love Tchaikovsky: Putin

Safety at Sochi. Russian president tries to assure international athletes despite harsh decrees

President Vladimir Putin sought to ease concerns that Russia's new anti-gay law would be used to punish athletes who display rainbow flags during the Winter Olympics in Sochi, while insisting that gays are not discriminated against in his country.

"I assure you that I work with these people; I sometimes award them with state prizes or decorations for their achievements in various fields," Putin said in an interview late Tuesday. "We have absolutely normal relations, and I don't see anything out of the ordinary here."

He added that Russians love Tchaikovsky even though the composer was said to have



President Vladimir Putin says he often awards high-achieving gays in Russia. ALEXANDER ZEMlianichenko/The Associated Press

been a homosexual.

"Truth be told, we don't love him because of that, but he was a great musician, and we all love his music," Putin said.

Putin offered to meet with members of the gay and lesbian community if they asked.

The law on "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations," which Putin signed in July, makes it illegal to expose minors to information that portrays these relationships as normal or attractive.

Putin said in the interview

that they would not be punished. But he clearly has no intention of allowing a pride parade during the Olympics. Last month, he signed a decree banning all demonstrations and rallies throughout the Winter Games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Staffers fired after black statue hanged at Leon's

Halifax. Furniture chain cans two employees, offers diversity training following incident

A Leon's Furniture outlet in Dartmouth, N.S., is apologizing and has provided staff with sensitivity and diversity training after firing two employees over the hanging of a black statue.

The furniture store says it fired the two workers after it conducted an investigation into the incident last month.

Leon's says the bronze statue with black patina was taped and hung to an office window. The statue was altered so its eyes and mouth

were whitened.

The company did not return messages seeking comment. The incident was revealed by a former Leon's employee, who has lodged a complaint of racial discrimination with the provincial Human Rights Commission.

According to the CBC, Elsworth Bottomsley told the commission he quit after the statue lynching, which followed several other racially motivated incidents over the previous two years.

Another Leon's employee, who is also alleging racial discrimination by the furniture store, is seeking to introduce the statue lynching as evidence in her case.

THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES

FROM METRO HALIFAX



Lobbying for a spot on your social calendar

Bartender Derek Simoes mixes drinks in the newly-redesigned bar during "social hour" at a Sheraton hotel in Seattle. Long treated as dead spaces that hotel guests raced through on the way to the elevator, lobbies are being transformed into places to work, surf the web or meet friends for a drink. Large, traditional hotels are spending billions on renovations to try to mimic the style and financial success of luxury and boutique hotels, which have always drawn free-spending crowds to their lobbies. Walls are being torn down to make lobbies feel less confined, communal tables are popping up and wine lists are being upgraded. ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Halifax

Rain washes out N.S. booze sales

Nova Scotia Liquor is reporting a drop in sales and profits for the first quarter of this fiscal year, a decline it attributes in part to an increase in precipitation. The Crown corporation says it earned \$57.1 million in profits during the first three months of fiscal 2013-14, about \$1.4 million less than the same period last year.

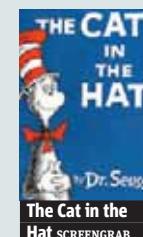
THE CANADIAN PRESS



The logo of the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission THE CANADIAN PRESS

Publishing

Dr. Seuss classics go digital this fall



The Cat in the Hat SCREENGRAB

Make that the e-Cat in the Hat. Dozens of Dr. Seuss classics, including The Cat in the Hat and Green Eggs and Ham, will

be available this fall for the first time as e-books. Random House Children's Books announced Wednesday that the first 15 will come out Sept. 24, followed by additional publications in October and November.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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NOT ALL TEACHERS ARE MADE EQUAL

Teachers, am I right?

In honour of the beginning of the school year, this was a test.

Did you respond to the mere mention of the profession with rage, fed up with union-protected whiners who don't realize how good they've got it, what with their summer break, free apples by the deskload and brightly coloured chalk?

Or did your eyes tear up at the very thought of these educational exemplars, the second most noble profession (just behind humour columnist), preparing the Leaders of Tomorrow despite the slings and spitballs of the Grocery Store Cashiers of Tomorrow?

Middle ground often seems like a no-man's land when it comes to the battle between pro- and anti-teacher camps.

People love labels. All of us do. It's so much easier than thinking. People can be racist. Some people are classist. Others are



HE SAYS
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

regionalist, deciding that 5.5 million people in the Greater Toronto Area are latte-quaffing liberals or that four million Albertans are cow-romancing conservatives—all mayoral election results to the contrary.

And some people are, uh, professionalist. While teacher-bashing is more popular at the moment—teacher-praising seems reserved these days for teachers and their relatives—I've rarely heard an attempt at a balanced opinion. Educators are either heroes or heels, full stop.

Here's a hypothetical conversation:

"Must be nice to be done at three o'clock and get the whole summer off," says a teacher hater.

"Teaching is the most important profession we have, and in a just society they'd be paid as much as doctors," says a teacher lover.

"There are many excellent teachers who are making a real difference, yet there are some awful teachers who are protected

too readily by their peers," says a third person, joining in.

"Kaboom!" go the heads of the other two, like characters in a violent video game being played in the back of a classroom as we speak.

Here's the thing: I remember a theatre-arts teacher who gave us a taste of Macbeth and A Raisin in the Sun in a way that made us crave more, and I remember a French teacher who showed us Weekend at Bernie's. In English. Without subtitles.

The teaching profession is a mixed bag, just like every other profession except for astronauts and air-traffic controllers (one hopes). I choose to give individual teachers the benefit of the doubt until given reason not to.

After all, these are people who deal with classes packed tighter than a New York sidewalk, and often face junior high students without a chair and whip. And how does one deal with issues like bullying and burgeoning sexuality when, as I recall, all it takes to create chaos in a classroom is one stray bumblebee?

Last time I checked, teachers are people. Sorry to be so controversial.

Clickbait



HANNAH ZITNER

hannah.zitner@metronews.ca



Darwin the Ikea monkey made his first public appearance Dec. 9, 2012.
BRYAN PAGE/THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

If you've ever tried to find an old tweet, you know that Twitter's search function is of lamentable quality—at best. Topsy, the social-media-analytic king, has now fixed that wee problem and indexed every tweet ever sent. Ever. That's about 425 billion pieces of content, according to the New York Times. So what can you do with this while companies figure out how to get rich from it? Have fun playing a spirited game of first tweets.

Ikea monkey

Where did the first Ikea monkey tweet come from?

Bieber

What was his first tweet?

Trudeau and pot

Find out just how far back the Trudeau pot-smoking story surfaced.



row with e-readers?

@metropicks asked:

Dr. Seuss books are coming out in e-editions. Do kids miss out on anything by using an e-reader?

@Canucklehead_ca: Good luck with that e-reader at a book signing! (See also: in direct sunlight.)

@BrianBlatnicki: how do you bor-

row with e-readers?

@canadiansteph: how can you tell which books are more loved than others? My son's most loved book is torn and bent, and loved!

Follow **@metropicks** and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

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ZOOM

Fish killed in polluted Chinese river



GETTY IMAGES

Factory blamed for ammonia leak

This was the scene on a 40-kilometre stretch of the Fuhe River in China after a chemical spill killed about 100,000 kilograms of fish, mainly chub, carp and snakehead. High levels of ammonia leaked into the river from a factory, and the owner has been ordered to stop operating.

The government claims the river is now cleared. **METRO**

Other animal tragedies

- 16,000 pigs were found floating in a Shanghai river this year.
- Also this year, 1,000 dead ducks were seen in the rivers of Sichuan province.
- Similar to now, more than 40,000 kilograms of fish were killed after the 2012 spill of toxic chemical cadmium in a Guangxi river.

Fishermen's losses

\$11,400

The loss per day that local fishermen will suffer, which could have a devastating effect on the area's economy.

No comment from science company

The Hubei province environmental protection department, notified of the piles of dead fish on Monday, pointed the finger at local company Hubei Shuanghuan Science and Technology Stock Co. The company said it wasn't going to immediately comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Duplass in League of his own

Q&A. Director, actor and self-confessed workaholic talks about the beauty of Pete and staying close to the cast

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in NYC

To some, Mark Duplass is a filmmaker specializing in small dramedies like *The Puffy Chair*, *Cyrus* and *Jeff, Who Lives at Home*. To others, he's an actor who plays soulful slacker types in *Humpday*, *Your Sister's Sister* and *Safety Not Guaranteed*. But to most, arguably, he's Pete, the horrifically dude-ish fantasy football addict on *The League*.

Though the FX show enters its fifth season, Duplass says his character hasn't changed much — which is good.

How do you feel Pete has evolved over the seasons?

Here's the greatest thing about Pete and this show: Pete does not grow up. Every man-child movie or anything you watch, over the course of 90 minutes they learn their lessons and become good people. Pete's kind of a terrible human being. He's super shallow. He's very into fantasy football because he doesn't have very much else going on in his life. He really doesn't change — which I kind of love.

Do you think he'll ever change?

I think Pete's got a shot at beginning self-awareness around 75. But I wouldn't bet on it.

Are there any stray similarities between you and Pete?

No, I'm so different from him. He has this confidence — even if he doesn't work hard, he knows he's going to be fine in the world. I'm deathly afraid of failure and am pretty neurotic and I'm a workaholic because of that. If I don't create projects for myself, nothing will happen.

The cast is mainly comic actors, whereas you and your wife Katie Aselton come from movies.

The films that we've done are dramedies, so we have an appreciation for comedy. You just have to take ego out of it, and make sure you're not trying to be the funniest one in the scene all the time. You're just trying to make the funniest scene you can. And sometimes that's setting somebody else up.

How do you maintain the group rapport, especially with gaps in seasons?

We're all very close friends. Steve (Rannazzisi) just moved back to New York. But the rest of the cast, we all live within two miles of each other. We use Katie's pool as a place where we hang out a lot. We're buds; we just kind of lucked out on this one.



Mark Duplass lazing around on *The League*. HANDOUT

As an actor, what are the challenges of doing TV versus film and hanging onto the same character?

The League is a bit like summer camp. I get to show up and just be an actor and improvise and have fun. And then I walk away. We're not really arcing these characters

long-term. We're watching them in their stasis — we're watching their eternal state of man-childishness. The real challenge is trying to stay creatively relevant and stay creatively inspired. The thing that helps us the most with *The League* is it's an improvised show. We work

from outlines, so you can never get to that lazy space where you just memorize your lines and spit them out. You always have to be on your feet; you always have to be paying attention because you never know what's going to happen. It keeps you vital.

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2
SCENE

Keeping mum, finding sympathy for the devil

Lydia. Breaking Bad star Laura Fraser on making a “demented,” corporate drug trafficker sympathetic and the pain of staying tight-lipped

**NED
EHRBAR**
Metro World News in Hollywood

Scottish actress Laura Fraser is eager for Breaking Bad fans to finally see the end of the series, which has its finale Sept. 29 — mostly because she's getting tired of keeping her mouth shut about how the whole thing ends.

How much did you know about how things would play out as you were filming the final episodes?

I got to read all the episodes for this season, but while we were shooting them I had no idea. I got the scripts just a few days before, maybe sometimes a week before we shot them. I feel kind of smug

right now because I know how it ends.

How much are you allowed to say about it, speaking as obliquely as possible?

Well, it's terrible. It's very hard to do interviews about the show. It's such a secret that you reveal anything under penalty of death. The person the most upset probably wouldn't be the producer of Breaking Bad, it would be the person you told. So I've just been using, you know, metaphors and being very, very vague.

How was it coming into the show so late into its run?

It was very strange, and it still remains quite surreal for me because I came in only last spring. They all already knew each other so well; they were family, the cast and the crew. The series had been going five years at that point. It was kind of like being the new kid at school — and also like gate-crashing an amazing party that's in full swing. You feel lucky to be there but you're not sure that you fit in. But everybody

made me feel really welcome.

You always play Lydia with the sense of constant clenched fear.

Yeah, she's a demented character. I mean, I didn't know how demented she was in the beginning. She seems to vibrate at a very high-pitched frequency. She's constantly in fight-or-flight mode, you know? I feel like she's gone from being rather cold to completely glacial. She's almost like a little Nazi in these last episodes. She keeps surprising me. She still comes from such a place of fear, but this greed she has is really trumping her fear, and she's always got this keen sense of something horrendous might be about to happen. Or she might just implode or crumble into a thousand pieces or something.

The show is so good at making the audience sympathize with people who do horrible things for a living.

Yeah, they're good at that, aren't they? Even with Lydia,



Laura Fraser plays Lydia in Breaking Bad. GETTY IMAGE

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to an end?
I don't know, I'm totally slacking. I'm over in Scotland right now visiting friends and family and hanging out. I have a couple of films coming out, but I'm not working right now. Yeah, I need to get a job, you've reminded me.

wouldn't say that Lydia's a very sympathetic character, really.

Well, I've always found her sympathetic.
Really? Interesting.

What do you have planned now that the show has come



Miley Cyrus. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Miley's motto: Don't think, just twerk

Miley Cyrus finally spoke out about her much-debated MTV Video Music Awards performance with Robin Thicke.

"I don't pay attention to the negative because I've seen this play out so many times," she tells MTV.com. "Madonna's done it. Britney's done it. Every VMA performance, that's what you're looking for. You're wanting

to make history."

That being said, even Cyrus is surprised by how much discussion her twerking has prompted.

"People are still talking about it. They're over-thinking it," she says. "You're thinking about it more than I thought about it when I did it. Like, I didn't even think about it because that's just me!"

Twitter



@TomArnold

Is my baby crying in spite of my wife's singing or because of it?



There is No Doubt that Stefani is pregnant

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Gwen Stefani, who never seems to age in spirit or looks, is proving her youthfulness yet again by getting pregnant at 43.

In Touch reports that the singer and husband Gavin Rossdale are expecting their third fabu-

lously dressed offspring sometime soon.

A "source" tells the mag the two "couldn't be happier." If true, baby number three joins brothers Kingston, 7, and Zuma, 4.

Last year, the singer told Marie Claire that she and Rossdale tried for a third but it didn't happen.

"I really, really, really wanted one about two years ago," Stefani said.

"And it didn't really work out. So... I feel good with what we've got. Everything works out how it should. You can't plan anything, right? You can try."

@KChenoweth

Trust me, you can dance. -Wine



@SethMacFarlane

Chilling thought: With all the billions of people on Earth, the odds are very high that right now, someone is watching "Fred Claus."

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OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Simon Cowell

Those finger paintings are truly disappointing

Simon Cowell is going to be just fine as a father once girlfriend Laura Silverman gives birth, thank you very much.

"Once I got used to (becoming a father) I did get excited. I think I will be a good dad, so I'm excited," he tells the BBC. "I am good

with kids because I like kids. I really do like them and I listen to them."

But that doesn't mean Cowell plans to change any diapers.

"I'm not doing that, 100 per cent absolutely not going near that," he insists.



Calvin Klein

Sorry Beckham, we need someone less famous

To hear Calvin Klein tell it, he couldn't use David Beckham in a series of underwear ads in the U.K. recently because the soccer star was too famous.

"They said, 'You can have him for the rest of the world,

but you can't have the U.K. because he's too popular,'" Klein explains to Marc Jacobs in a chat for Interview magazine.

Klein ended up going with retired Swedish soccer star Freddie Ljungberg instead.

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In the tents or on the town

The prospect of sidling up to Lincoln Center in New York or a cocktail party in Soho wearing your most well-worn clothes may not seem like the best idea. But help is at hand, because as these styling tips we've collected from our street style galleries prove, you don't need an endless designer wardrobe to compete during fashion month.

METRO WORLD NEWS



The Pick'n'Mix

A taxi driver once told Garance Dore that he could spot the girls working in fashion by the fact that nothing they wore matched. Pairing Breton stripes with graphic florals and a denim jacket might be unexpected in the civilian world, but in fashion the two go together like Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel. The irreverence that lies behind such a move is obvious. This tip is all about attitude, so whilst there's a fine line between experimental and, well, ugly, you'll exude confidence by daring to work it.



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The Sweatshirt Effect

Ever since sports-luxe became a fashion noun, sweatshirts have slowly worked their way into the most stylish of wardrobes. Build up a go-to look by teaming a grown-up version with basic skinny jeans and a high-impact accessory such as a statement necklace or a leopard print bag.



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RODARTE SWEATER,
BROWNSFASHION.COM, \$249

MOTHER OF PEARL SWEATER,
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The Fashion Pop

By Milan fashion week the impracticality of those huge Balmain shoulders or bandaged JW Anderson sleeves will be hitting home and cravings for a more comfortable look will start to kick in. This fashionista occupied the middle ground at Italy's fashion week with a fashion pop — that one special item that lifts an entire look. In this case it's her unusual jacket that adds a finished twist to an otherwise laid-back ensemble.



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Bellissima! Pasta Primavera minus those pesky carbs

The most delicious and satisfying meals are often the simplest. This flavourful favourite is bound to sweep you away. Make it your very own low-carb staple. Enjoy with a glass of biodynamic red wine, if you wish.

1. Noodles: Slice zucchini in thirds, then spiralize (by using a potato peeler) into thin noodles. Set in colander to drain. (Once zucchini noodles are mixed with sauce, they will release a lot of water, making them soggy. Drain spiralized

noodles in a colander, sprinkled with a little salt, before adding sauce. Or pat zucchini between paper towels to pull out some of the excess moisture.)

2. Primavera Sauce: In a

blender, blend tomatoes, red pepper, and garlic. Add remainder of sauce ingredients and blend until well mixed. Spoon over noodles and sprinkle with black pepper, basil, and 2 to 3 tablespoons of Pine Nut Parma (optional).



This recipe serves four. PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE SIMPLYRAW KITCHEN BY NATASHA KYSSA

3. Pine Nut Parma: In a food processor, chop nuts to a fine meal (or finely chop by hand). Add salt, onion powder, and yeast and pulse until crumbly. Parma will keep in refrigerator for 1 month.

RECIPE PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE SIMPLYRAW KITCHEN BY NATASHA KYSSA

Ingredients

Noodles

• 6 medium zucchinis, peeled

Primavera Sauce

• 4 medium Roma tomatoes, chopped
• 1 cup (250 ml) chopped red bell peppers
• 2 garlic cloves
• 1 cup (250 ml) sun-dried tomatoes, soaked for 30 minutes
• 2 tbsp pitted Kalamata olives
• 1 tsp lemon juice
• 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
• 2 pitted Medjool dates or 1 tbsp maple syrup
• 2 tsp onion powder
• 1 tsp garlic powder
• 1 tsp Italian seasoning
• 3 tbsp minced fresh basil

leaves

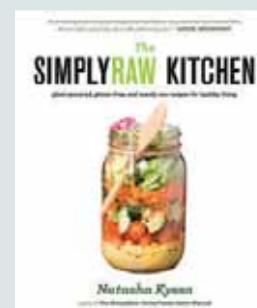
• 1 tbsp minced fresh oregano leaves
• 1 tbsp gluten-free tamari
• 1/8 tsp freshly ground black pepper
• cayenne pepper, to taste
• freshly ground black pepper, to taste
• 2 tbsp chopped fresh basil, for garnish

Pine Nut Parma

• 1/4 cup (60 ml) dry pine nuts
• 1/4 cup (60 ml) dry cashews
• 1/8 tsp Himalayan salt
• 1/2 tsp onion powder
• 2 tbsp nutritional yeast (optional)

Cookbook of the Week

Raw made easy



Promoting a balanced, flexible diet based on gluten-free and toxin-free plant foods can be easy and delicious. Natasha Kyssa sets out to prove this in her book *The SimplyRaw Kitchen*. Through 134 recipes the book features a guide to the lifestyle that's easy to follow and accessible.

Among the delicious raw dishes in *The SimplyRaw Kitchen* are Spicy Thai Salad, Spinach and Mushroom Dip, Soft Taco Verde, Romanian Cabbage Rolls, Corn and Bean Skillet and more. METRO

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Film festival decorating on a budget

As the Toronto International Film Festival ramps up for another run and my love for The Great Gatsby movie lingers on, I thought it would be nice to pay homage by adding some art deco glam into my home. From walking the red carpet to creating sparkle and shine, there are lots of on-trend home decor accessories to help you feel like the VIPs when coming home from a night at the movies.



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Placemat

Layer on the dining table for instant sparkle at your next dinner party or place one under a crystal lamp to dress up an end table. **Urban Beaded Placemat, \$12.50, simons.ca**



Chandelier

Inject Hollywood glamour to a foyer or bedroom with the drama of sleek black. **Concerto Six-Light Black Lucite Chandelier, \$179, homedepot.ca.**



Bathroom tray

Display your perfume bottles or soap in true '20s Hollywood style. Polished Nickel Accessory Tray, \$21, sears.ca.



Runner

Feel like a VIP when you walk through the front door with your very own red carpet. Bold Stripe Red Floor Runner, \$210, crateandbarrel.com.



Champagne glasses

At this price buy a case; it's cheaper than renting. Glass Champagne Flutes, \$2, dollarama.com



Beaded pillow

Add the sparkle of French gold to a neutral sofa or chair. Beaded Lombar Pillow Cover, \$59, zarahome.com.



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Mitchell likely back in starting saddle

CFL. Third-stringer at beginning of season pegged to be Stamps' No. 1 QB vs. Eskimos

All signs point to Bo Levi Mitchell being Calgary's starter on Friday against the Edmonton Eskimos although the best term to describe the Stampeders' quarterback situation this season is fluid.

Head coach and general manager John Hufnagel indicated the order of selection on his quarterback depth chart is Mitchell, Drew Tate and Kevin Glenn. But he cautioned that could change prior to the Labour Day rematch in Edmonton.

"If we had to play today, Bo would be No. 1, Drew would be No. 2 and Kevin would be No. 3," Hufnagel said Wednesday.

Glenn started but Mitchell finished Monday's 37-34 win over Edmonton at McMahon Stadium. Calgary led 37-7 in the fourth quarter before Edmonton rallied to score 27 straight points and make a game of it.

Mitchell completed 11 of 18 passes for 225 yards and two touchdowns in relief of Glenn, who left in the second quarter with a bruised knee.

It appears the 23-year-old Mitchell, Calgary's No. 3 quarterback in training camp, will get the ball again. With Tate and Glenn moving in and out of the lineup this season, Mitchell is getting plenty of work for a third-string player.

"It's another chance for me to get out there and get some



The Eskimos' Mike Cornell sacks Bo Levi Mitchell at McMahon Stadium on Monday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

more experience, get out there and play some games with the guys and try to get another win," said Mitchell, who started in Calgary's 37-24 win over Winnipeg on July 26. "You're playing the same team, but it's a completely different game."

Tate began the season as the incumbent but has struggled with an injury to his right throwing arm. The 28-year-old hasn't played since the fourth quarter of a July 5 loss to Saskatchewan.

Glenn, 34, has started six games in Tate's absence but hasn't finished three of them due to injuries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Week 11 pick



Stampeders (7-2) at Eskimos (1-8), Friday, 7 p.m. (TSN).

Mike Reilly and the Edmonton Eskimos proved anything is possible on Labour Day.

With Edmonton trailing 37-7 in the fourth quarter, Reilly engineered a wild comeback but it wasn't

enough as Calgary held on for the 37-34 win. The loss was the seventh straight for Edmonton, its fifth this season by three points or less.

Calgary has issues, too. Starter Kevin Glenn suffered a leg injury Monday and gave way to backup Bo Levi Mitchell. It's unclear if Glenn will be available Friday.

GM Ed Hervey made a public rant this week to light a fire under the Eskies, but it doesn't address his team's inability to keep opposing defences off Reilly.

Pick: Calgary

U.S. Open

Nadal routs Robredo to move to semifinals

A year after skipping the U.S. Open because of a bad knee, 2010 champion Rafael Nadal powered his way back to the semifinals by overwhelming 19th-seeded Tommy Robredo 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 on Wednesday night.

The second-seeded Nadal improved to 20-0 on hard courts in 2013, part of an overall record of 58-3 with nine titles, including his record eighth championship at the French Open in June.

On Saturday, Nadal will face No. 8 Richard Gasquet, who edged No. 4 David Ferrer 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3 in the quarter-finals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Jays put Bautista on shelf until 2014

The Toronto Blue Jays announced before their 4-3 loss to the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday that they are shutting down right-fielder Jose Bautista for the rest of the season due to a nagging left-hip injury.

Bautista has been on the disabled list since Aug. 21 and Toronto manager John Gibbons said the slugging outfielder will not play the rest of the season to give him more time to heal.

Though Bautista had been improving, a hip specialist recommended he rest two more weeks, leaving just one week left in the season.

Bautista played 118 games this season, hitting .259 with 28 homers and 73 RBIs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sagan retains yellow jersey after Stage 1



Racers ride past rushes during Stage 1 of the Tour of Alberta cycling race in Strathcona County on Wednesday. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Peter Sagan continued to lead the Tour of Alberta on Wednesday, finishing first in Stage 1 of the inaugural cycling race.

The Cannondale rider from Slovakia, who is among the favourites to win the overall title, also won the prologue time trial on Tuesday and leads the overall classification by 23 seconds.

Sagan won Wednesday's sprint finish, posting a time of three hours 22 minutes 17 seconds and earning the 10-second winner's time bonus to retain the yellow jersey with

Rolling round Alberta

The Tour of Alberta consists of five stages, finishing in Calgary on Sunday.

an overall time of 3:30:35.

Rohan Dennis of Garmin Sharp is second overall while teammate Ryder Hesjedal of Victoria moved up a spot to ninth, 40 seconds behind Sagan.

Hesjedal finished 19th Wednesday with the same

time as Sagan.

BMC Racing's Cadel Evans, the 2011 Tour de France champion and another rider considered to have a chance at the first-ever Tour of Alberta podium, is fourth at 30 seconds back of Sagan.

Regina's Rob Britton is the top rider on the Canadian national team, 1:10 off the pace.

Wednesday's 158-kilometre stage moved north along Edmonton's refinery row, then looped back south through rolling parkland to end in Camrose. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

No one in their right mind would knowingly annoy you so likely the reason a colleague is being such a pain today is because they are stupid rather than hateful. Don't hit back.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You like a challenge and that's just as well as the challenges now coming your way will be bigger than anything you have faced before. You will enjoy showing the world what a dynamic Taurus you are.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You may come in for criticism today but no way will you take it lying down. The more others bark at you, the more you will bark back. You may not be the biggest beast on the block but you are the loudest.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Whatever you start over the next 24 hours you must see through to completion, so make sure it is what you really want to be doing. If you are still undecided then forget it.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Today's new moon will encourage you to believe that you can do more in your career and that you can turn your talents into hard cash. Remember: If a job is worth doing it is worth getting well paid for.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Today's new moon in your sign means you are capable of feats that ordinary mortals cannot compete with. But don't do things to impress. Do them to further your ambitions.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

People are not blocking your way deliberately, although it may seem like it. Look at your own state of mind. It will tell you more than what partners or co-workers are up to.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

What you gain will be more important than what you lose today, so don't try to hang on to what is clearly moving away from you. Life is an eternal revolving circle — enjoy the ride.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

If you start something new today, your name will soon be in lights. The new moon means you have the vision, and the confidence, to make a success of whatever you are planning.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

What happens over the next 24 hours will make it clear that a more positive cycle is starting. You don't have to do anything special but you do have to be ready to travel quickly.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

If you have financial issues to deal with, now is the ideal time to get serious about them. The new moon will inspire you to knuckle down and find solutions to problems that others have given up on.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

You cannot afford to be soft or sentimental. Cosmic activity in your opposite sign demands that you see things, relationships especially, as they are, not as you wish they might be. Be tough with others but more so with yourself. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

- 1. Annoyed state
- 5. Daniel ___, Robinson Crusoe author
- 10. Cape Canaveral org.
- 14. Culture medium
- 15. Ring-shaped coral island with a lagoon in the middle
- 16. Amazes
- 17. Trojan princess in Mozart's opera Idomeneo
- 18. 'R' of US state RI
- 19. Slowly advance
- 20. tiff. = Toronto International __
- 23. Maintain, as an opinion
- 24. Necklace bit
- 25. Slalom
- 28. Dubuque's locale
- 30. Wobble
- 32. Used a loom
- 35. Singer style
- 37. Annoy
- 38. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is on them: 3 wds.
- 41. Roll __ (Have one's turn in board game playing)
- 42. Plane crash investigation agcy.
- 43. Depend on
- 44. Movie legend Marilyn (b.1926 - d.1962)
- 46. __ hat for the

Down

- lady (Be gentlemanly)
- 48. Meadow mom
- 49. __ collar
- 51. Media company acquired by Bell
- 56. Canada Post business: 2 wds.
- 58. "Whoopee!"
- 61. Easily duped
- 62. Perceived
- 63. Canadian actor Mr. Cronyn, star of the flick at #57-Down

- 64. Decorative pin holders
- 65. Actress, __ Rachel Wood
- 66. Russian city
- 67. Convened again
- 68. Prefix to 'phone'

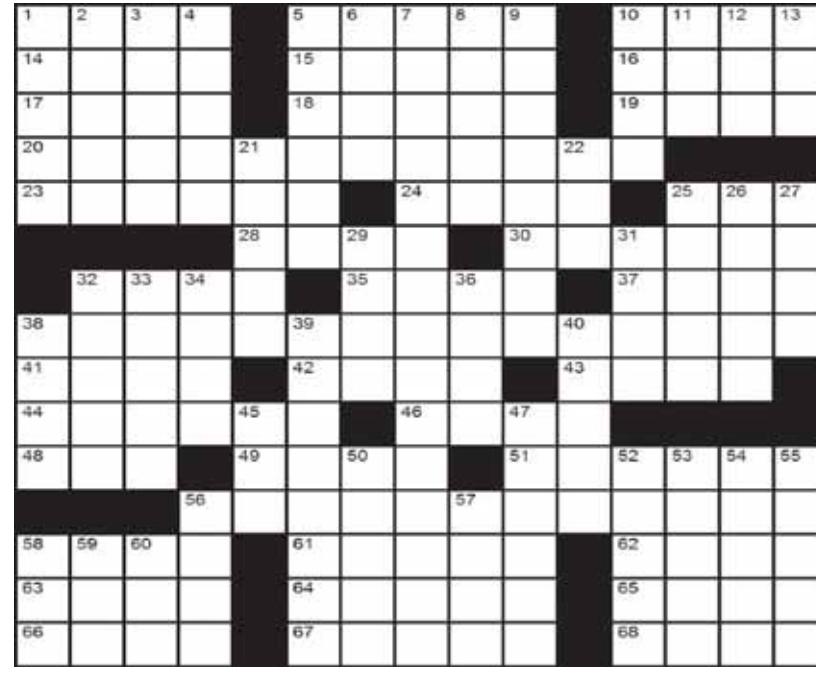
- 5. __ be different (Nonconformist's credo)
- 6. Shakespearean suffixes
- 7. Where to attend a CFL game: 2 wds.
- 8. Musical blast from the past
- 9. "Love in an __" by Aerosmith
- 10. Painting holder
- 11. Barley bristle

- 12. "Hey! Hold on a __!"
- 13. Volcanic eruption stuff
- 21. Used a pan
- 22. Fruit drink
- 25. Motionless
- 26. __ green
- 27. Furies
- 29. Mr. Disney
- 31. __ Canal
- 32. Franz Lehár operetta, The Merry __

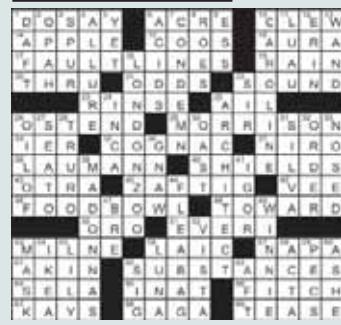


See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

- 33. Sheep-like
- 34. Sharply turn
- 36. __ International (Canadian womenswear chain, once)
- 38. Renown
- 39. Stand-up's quick joke
- 40. Enforcer in "The Godfather" (1972), Luca __
- 45. Chance __ lifetime
- 47. Most faint
- 50. Uplift
- 52. Clicker-holder's target: 2 wds.
- 53. Actor Christopher
- 54. "He's __ Nowhere Man..." - The Beatles
- 55. Jeff of ELO
- 56. Docile
- 57. "A Letter for __" (1946)
- 58. British Sci-Fi series, "Doctor __"
- 59. Sing wordlessly
- 60. First aid team [acronym]



Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY



MAX: 25°
MIN: 15°



MAX: 20°
MIN: 12°



MAX: 20°
MIN: 11°



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